

In the Claims: (strikethrough parts deleted and underlined parts added)

Please delete Claims 1-9 without prejudice.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A file binding system, comprising:
an elastic loop member;
a bead member attached to said loop member; and
a locking member slidably positioned about said loop member, wherein said locking member frictionally engages said loop member for allowing reduction or enlargement of an opening within said loop member and wherein said locking member is positioned between said bead member and a distal portion of said loop member;
wherein said locking member is comprised of a ring structure with an aperture;
wherein said aperture is sized to frictionally receive said loop member;
wherein said loop member is comprised of a solid loop structure;
~~wherein said loop member is comprised of an elongate member having a first end and a second end secured together forming said loop member;~~
~~wherein said first end and said second end are secured together by a knot;~~
wherein said bead member is comprised of a spherical structure;
wherein said bead member is larger than said locking member;
wherein said loop member is comprised of an elastic flat band structure;

wherein said loop member is comprised of a flexible stretchable fabric with interwoven strands of elastic material.

11. (Original) A method of securing a file binder about a file, said file binder comprised of an elastic loop member, a bead member attached to said loop member, and a locking member slidably positioned about said loop member, wherein said locking member frictionally engages said loop member for allowing reduction or enlargement of an opening within said loop member and wherein said locking member is positioned between said bead member and a distal portion of said loop member, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a file containing one or more documents within;
- (b) positioning said loop member about said file;
- (c) grasping said bead member and said locking member;
- (d) separating said bead member and said locking member causing said locking member to slide downwardly upon said loop member thereby tightening said loop member upon said file;
- (e) terminating said separating after a desired contraction force is applied to said file by said loop member; and
- (f) repeating steps (b) through (e) if another loop member is desired to be secured about said file.

12. (Original) The method of securing a file binder about a file of Claim 11, wherein said locking member is comprised of a ring structure with an aperture.

13. (Original) The method of securing a file binder about a file of Claim 12, wherein said aperture is sized to frictionally receive said loop member.

14. (Original) The method of securing a file binder about a file of Claim 11, wherein said loop member is comprised of a solid loop structure.

15. (Original) The method of securing a file binder about a file of Claim 11, wherein said loop member is comprised of an elongate member having a first end and a second end secured together forming said loop member.

16. (Original) The method of securing a file binder about a file of Claim 15, wherein said first end and said second end are secured together by a knot.

17. (Original) The method of securing a file binder about a file of Claim 11, wherein said bead member is comprised of a spherical structure.

18. (Original) The method of securing a file binder about a file of Claim 11, wherein said bead member is larger than said locking member.

19. (Original) The method of securing a file binder about a file of Claim 11, wherein said loop member is comprised of a flexible stretchable fabric with interwoven strands of elastic material.